

CREATION OF GAME REFUGES IN THE OZARK NATIONAL FOREST, ARK.

FEBRUARY 10, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on
the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HAUGEN, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the
following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 12192]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12192) to authorize the creation of game refuges on the Ozark National Forest in the State of Arkansas, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The Arkansas Legislature recently passed an act relinquishing to the Federal Government criminal jurisdiction over fish and game in the Ozark National Forest, which covers about 10 counties in the State.

The bill reported herewith in effect accepts that relinquishment, and authorizes the President to designate certain places for game preserves and fish preserves in the Ozark National Forest.

The Ozark National Forest is made up partly of lands purchased under the Weeks Act and partly of lands derived from the public domain, chiefly of the latter.

If the Ozark National Forest was made up entirely of lands purchased under the Weeks law, it would not be necessary to give this authority, but much of the land in the Ozark National Forest is land derived from the public domain, and the act approved August 11, 1916, authorizing the setting aside of refuges, applies only to lands acquired under the Weeks Act, and not to lands derived from the public domain; therefore this proposed legislation is necessary.

A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture approving the legislation is printed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, February 7, 1925.

HON. GILBERT N. HAUGEN,
*Chairman Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. HAUGEN: I have received your letter of February 7, transmitting H. R. No. 12192 by Representative Ragon, of Arkansas, entitled "An act to

authorize the creation of game refuges within the Ozark National Forest in the State of Arkansas."

The effect of the passage of Representative Ragon's bill would be to permit the establishment by Executive order of some urgently needed game refuges under the direct control of the Federal Government within the Ozark National Forest, and is in direct accord with special legislation enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, now in session at Little Rock, ceding jurisdiction over game, fish, and bird life on national forest lands.

Attention is invited to the fact that an act of Congress approved August 11, 1916, provides similar authorization, but with respect only to lands acquired under the Weeks law March 1, 1911. The lands within the Ozark National Forest were derived mainly from the public domain, thus necessitating a special enactment to extend the authority to this national forest area.

I am convinced that the creation of such refuges would materially help the Department of Agriculture in bringing about adequate protection of all the resources within the national forest, and in addition effectively promote the replenishment of the seriously depleted game ranges and fishing streams of this region. This department strongly recommends the adoption of this proposed legislation.

Very sincerely yours,

HOWARD M. GORE, *Secretary.*